

Claims

1. Apparatus for high volume, low cost photo finishing comprising:

5 an inkjet printer having a printing width greater than twice the width of a first print size, and at least equal to the width of a second larger print size;

a supply of continuous feed media;

10 an image processor connected to the inkjet printer for digitizing images to be printed and arranging the digitized images for printing in at least a 2x2 matrix of prints of at least two different sizes;

a cutter for cutting the continuous feed media into sheets, each sheet carrying the matrix of prints; and

15 a two-axis cutter controlled by the image processor and cutting the sheets into individual prints of at least two different sizes.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 comprising a laminator disposed between the inkjet printer and the two-axis cutter for laminating the sheets with a protective film of material.

3. The apparatus of claim 1 in which each matrix of prints comprises prints for a single customer.

20 4. The apparatus of claim 2 comprising a buffer between the printer and the laminator.

5. The apparatus of claim 1 in which the inkjet printer comprises a marking engine and a dryer.

25 6. The apparatus of claim 1 in which the supply of continuous feed media comprises a roll of media.

7. The apparatus of claim 6 in which the roll of media comprises a roll of paper.

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8. The apparatus of claim 2 in which the laminator comprises an embosser coupled to the image processor for selectively embossing the prints to simulate a matte finish.

5 9. The apparatus of claim 1 comprising a waste receptical coupled with the two axis cutter for receiving strips cut from the sheet.

10 10. The apparatus of claim 1 in which the two axis cutter comprises an input cutter arranged on a first edge of the two axis cutter and an output cutter arranged on a second edge of the two axis cutter orthogonal to the first edge.

11. The apparatus of claim 1 in which the cutter cuts the media into sheets having lengths that vary over a range of at least 2:1.

12. The apparatus of claim 3 comprising a sorter coupled to the image processor and the two axis cutter and sorting the individual prints by customer.

15 13. The apparatus of claim 1 comprising a stacker coupled to the image processor and the sorter stacking the prints by customer.

14. The apparatus of claim 1 comprising a backside printer coupled to the image processor and disposed between the two axis cutter and the sorter.